

Coincidence dept? I heard from here on the eve of the crunch in the Ray case?

Marcia Weissberg
Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
10/15/74

Dear Diane,

We've thought of you from time to time and wondered about your long silence. Glad your letter of the 9th, postmarked the 10th, came today, delayed by the long holiday weekend. Beginning tomorrow I'm going to be tighter for several weeks than some of your old pals used to be about me. Too much, deadline things.

The best answer I can give you to what's been happening is, I guess, a stiffer dose of the usual. Like they used to say on radio, same time, same station. Same work.

That you were even in court is news to me. I take it you were tried and convicted? You know, you never even told me the charges against you. So, instead of "some day I'll have to enlighten you," why not use some of the plentiful time you have for laying it all out. I'd prefer straight, as you should remember. If I didn't care, I'd not ask.

You haven't said why you are there, in a State hospital. I suspect it because you are in the psychiatric unit. If so, instead of cooking up schemes to blow minds, if my presumption is correct, why not take a chance and level, on the chance you have a good shrink? If you are under sentence and you don't, have you anything to lose, do you? And he can't even find his radiator decoration gone, can he?

I mean it. Give it a try. It might help and I don't see how it can hurt now. Maybe you can put your head together yet. You didn't tell me how much time you have for it.

Bill knows you said hello because I was away today and she read the mail first. She wishes you well.

You seem to have forgotten that I told you Jim and I have been of separate courses for years. The more outspoken I was and the more events proved me right the less he liked me.

The last time I was there or heard from any of them was the time you invited me to a steak dinner and (not surprisingly) stuck me for the tab.

I haven't heard from you, but I presume he returned to the regular job from which he had been detailed. He did get his degree while he was working for Jim. I hope he gets ahead. I think he deserves it.

You really are out of it if you don't know that Jim was defeated. The gangups and the frameups (he won all court cases) were too much. Pershing was the fink but he didn't do so well this time. Last I heard he'd left the state, had a joint of some kind in Mississippi. I think they had enough on him to squeeze hard enough for him to fink.

I believe this last is the shortest letter you ever wrote. Down in the dumps? Hope not. Try not.

The zip code for Rusk suggests it is not close to Houston. Never heard of Rusk.

Last time I was in a State Hospital was when you and I went to see Godfrey 7/4/68. Time before that was during World War II, when I was one of those who guarded a locked psychiatric ward until the 1st Sgt. realized it was more unpleasant where he shifted me, to the ~~more~~ venereal clinic. Natch that also was locked for all the soldiers were prisoners, too.

Haven't heard from Marge for some time, several years. Godfrey was pretty weak then. She had him out but had to take him back.

I won't be able to answer for a while because I'm into something that will take several difficult weeks. So why not take that time to write me a number of letters telling me what really happened? I would like to know.

And we know each other well enough for you not to be ashamed, really.

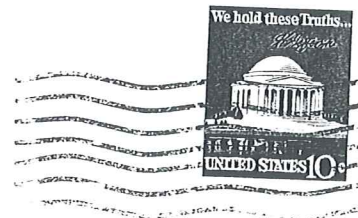
Without this you have me in the dark and all I can do, separated by all these many miles, is (figuratively) "hold out a hand of friendship."

Need anything I can send? Books maybe?

Hope things are going as well as then can.

Best regards,

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~~OUTLAW~~